



Invitation

Stewkley Parish Council would like to invite you to an Open Evening to discuss the development of a Stewkley Neighbourhood Plan. The Open Evening will take place at 7pm on Monday 7th December in the Village Hall.

Stewkley Parish Council has been considering whether to produce a Parish Neighbourhood Plan that would allow the village to have more of a say over its future. To ensure the plan is a success, it's important that you, as a Stewkley resident, are involved in its creation, so that it can meet all the needs of our village.

The Open Evening will give you the opportunity to find out more about what is involved in the creation of a Neighbourhood Plan and enable the Parish Council to answer any questions you might have.

The meeting will begin at 7pm with mince pies and mulled wine, with the main presentation and question and answer session starting at 7.30pm and ending at 8.30pm.

What is a Neighbourhood Plan?

In 2011, the Localism Act came into force, giving communities the opportunity to shape the future of the places where they live. As part of the Act, communities can create Neighbourhood Plans, which enable local residents, employees and businesses, to come together through a local parish council or neighbourhood forum to say where they think new developments (houses, businesses, shops etc) should go and what they should look like. Once approved, the plan will be used by Aylesbury Vale District Council (AVDC) to help determine planning decisions related to Stewkley; speeding up the planning process and making it more transparent for all involved.

To date, seven Neighbourhood Plans have been completed in the AVDC area and 25 more are under way. Every plan must be compliant with existing local and national planning policy and must ensure that all future development is sustainable.

More information about neighbourhood plans can be found on the Stewkley Parish Council website at <http://stewkley.pc.webs.com/>

What does it contain?

Our plan will set out a positive vision, for how we want Stewkley to develop over the next twenty years. It will contain our aims, planning policies and proposals to protect all that we love about Stewkley, while also improving the village through the provision of new facilities and the allocation of key sites for specific kinds of development (like housing, employment, heritage and transport).

How do we create the plan?

Typically it takes about 12 months to create a Neighbourhood Plan and the process will be led by the Parish Council. However for it to be a success, we need everyone (individuals, clubs/societies, local businesses etc) to share their thoughts and ideas and help shape our plan. A time line showing the key steps involved in developing the plan is included in this document.

What are the benefits of a plan for Stewkley

Developing a Neighbourhood plan for Stewkley would:

- Give everyone the chance to have their say in shaping Stewkley's future
- Allow us to make certain that village life is protected and Stewkley's character and identity maintained
- Enable us to influence development in our village to ensure that any scheme meets community requirements and has a positive impact on Stewkley
- Be used by AVDC to determine planning applications in the village
- Provide us with an opportunity to have a say in the production of AVDC's Local Development Plan for the area

How can I get involved?

For more information on participating in the Neighbourhood Plan please contact:

Janette Eustace Clerk, Stewkley Parish Council
Tel: 01525 240070
Email: parishclerk@stewkley.org



Key stages for the creation of Stewkley's Neighbourhood Plan

Step 1: Initial communication phase

Communication to the Stewkley Community of the Parish Council's decision to create a Neighbourhood Plan (on the village notice boards, The Grapevine and village website etc)

Step 2: Identify the plan area

Designating the Parish Neighbourhood (plan) Area and agreeing the location and size with AVDC.

Step 3: Forming a forum

Creating a Stewkley Community Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group, led by the Parish Council, with appropriate clubs, societies and age representatives. (Approx. 8 persons)

Step 4: Preparing the draft Neighbourhood Plan

This will include research into the need (from the local demographics and housing requirements) Consultations (with the clubs, societies, the community in general, local businesses, school, church and statutory bodies eg. Planning, highways, environment, ecology, heritage and utilities) to form the evidence for the Plan, public meetings and presentations (to receive the village community's views on this evidence and conclusions) and the writing up the Plan to form a document. It will cover areas such as housing need, areas for protection (eg. Listed buildings, open spaces), traffic calming and car parking, business needs, and ecology).

Step 5: Pre-submission publicity & consultation

AVDC will publish our Draft Plan and review with the appropriate (internal) statutory authorities

Step 6: Plan submission

Submission of a Neighbourhood Plan proposal to AVDC local planning authority – AVDC's formal review of the 'final' draft Neighbourhood Plan

Step 7: Independent Examination

An independent person(s) reviews the Plan and publishes his/her conclusion Assuming there are no issues, AVDC send the Plan for a Stewkley Community Referendum. Stewkley residents will receive a copy of the final Neighbourhood Plan to review for themselves.

Step 8: Referendum

Stewkley residents vote for or against on a given day. If over 50% voters, vote for the Plan then this is deemed approved by the Community.

Step 9: Making the plan

Making the Neighbourhood Plan (bringing it into force) – AVDC local planning authority ensures the Plan complies with EU obligations and Convention Rights and then deems the Plan 'Made' (adopted)